

REMARKS

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 16-18 is acknowledged and appreciated. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-15 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Butts, Jr. et al. '971 ("Butts"). Claims 1 and 19 are independent. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Each of claims 1 and 19 recite in pertinent part, "the operand data and the size information are retained in pairs, in the register means." Butts is completely silent as to register means for retaining operand data and size information about the size of the operand data *in pairs* (see col. 4, lines 30-34; col. 8, lines 23-25). As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed, either expressly or inherently (noting that "inherency may not be established by probabilities or possibilities", *Scaltech Inc. v. Retec/Tetra*, 178 F.3d 1378 (Fed. Cir. 1999)), in a single prior art reference, *Akzo N.V. v. U.S. Int'l Trade Commission*, 808 F.2d 1471 (Fed. Cir. 1986), based on the forgoing, it is submitted that Butts does not anticipate claims 1 and 19, nor any claim dependent thereon.

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as claims 1 and 19 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims dependent thereon are also

patentable. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are patentable based on their own merits by adding novel and non-obvious features to the combination.

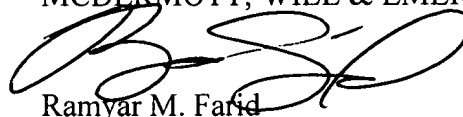
### CONCLUSION

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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